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**STATE AND PARTNERS CELEBRATE OPENING OF NEW
DORCHESTER SHORES WEST LINK**

BOSTON—The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Corcoran Jennison Companies and the Boston Harbor Association today celebrated the opening of the new Dorchester Shores West Link, a linear park behind the Bayside Expo Center that connects Mother's Rest Pavilion at Carson Beach to Old Harbor Park in South Boston.

"This park represents a key link in the walking trail along the South Boston and Dorchester waterfront," said Environmental Affairs Secretary Robert W. Golledge, Jr. "Many community groups advocated for this project, including the Boston Harbor Association, the Columbia Point Associates, the Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association, and the Harbor Point Community Task Force. I'm thrilled that this park they worked so hard to support has come to fruition."

DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington presented Corcoran Jennison, the Bayside Expo Center's management firm, with a Certificate of Appreciation for taking on the responsibility for the site's regular maintenance.

"Corcoran Jennison has provided maintenance for DCR's Old Harbor Park for more than 10 years, and has graciously offered to extend their maintenance agreement to include this parcel," said Burrington. "We are proud to partner with them on the shared stewardship of this property, which offers new recreational opportunities and increased public access to Boston's waterfront."

"Just as Harbor Point has become one of the most desirable locations along Boston's waterfront, we believe Dorchester Shores West Link will be a compliment to our area," said Joseph J. Corcoran of Corcoran Jennison Companies. "We are happy to join the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in partnership to maintain it for the residents of Dorchester, our home. We hope many generations of Bostonians will enjoy it for years to come."

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“Visitors to Dorchester’s Waterfront appreciate the seamless connection between Old Harbor Park and Carson Beach created as a result of the West Link Parcel” said Vivien Li, Executive Director of the Boston Harbor Association. “This site has some of the best waterfront views and public amenities along Boston Harbor. Many thanks to the DCR for making it happen and to Corcoran Jennison Companies for their civic commitment.”

The West Link consists of a 4.2-acre parcel, approximately 1/5 of a mile in length, running along the waterfront. It features a pergola overlook in the middle of the site and a paved, ADA accessible multi-use path available to pedestrians, bicyclists and in-line skaters. Additional amenities include lighting, benches, picnic tables, landscaping, and an irrigation system. The project was designed by HNTB of Boston and built by Fleming Bros. Inc., Quincy, at a total cost of \$1.715 million.

“It’s wonderful to have this new property which will help improve access to the South Boston and Dorchester waterfronts,” said State Representative Martin Walsh. “I am confident that people will be able to enjoy this corridor for decades to come.”

“This is a critical step in realizing the vision of the Back to the Beaches Plan,” said State Senator John Hart. “This important link between Carson Beach and Old Harbor Park brings us one step closer to a better waterfront for the people of Boston.”

This project marks one of the last critical projects to be completed as part of the Back to the Beaches Plan, first introduced in 1993. Created by the Joint Commission on the Boston Harbor Beaches, the Plan included the creation of a waterfront connection from Castle Island all the way to the JFK Library, a corridor which the Dorchester Shores West Link brings close to completion.

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